

Refereeing (or reviewing) is a more detailed and rigorous version of this, where the article or book is referred to someone for an opinion on its quality and for suggestions on how to improve it. This is normal for scientific/academic papers, e.g. for *Helictite* and for monographs and books. This all takes time to do, especially as referees are not paid to do it (even for very prestigious journals). The article in question is returned and then altered to meet the requirements requested. If there is something the referee and the author disagree about, this can be discussed and usually a compromise of some kind is worked out or the work is withdrawn. All of this takes time and it often takes over 12 months for the process to work its way to final editing stage. Certainly monographs, books and *Helictite* will not be published under the ASF logo without this happening.

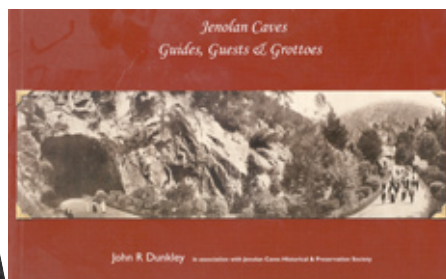
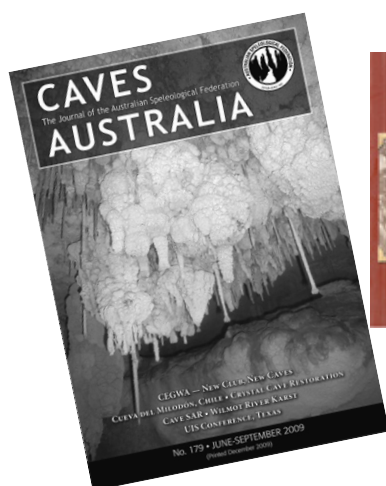
### What does ASF publishing do?

The ASF Publications Commission is responsible for the editing, production, publication and distribution of hard copy items and publication of electronic material produced by ASF. This includes quarterly magazines such as *Caves Australia* or member newsletters such as *ESpeleo*, but does not include the publication of *Helictite* which is the responsibility of the ASF Helictite Commission. The Commission members oversee issues to do with copyright and potential issues of offensive material.

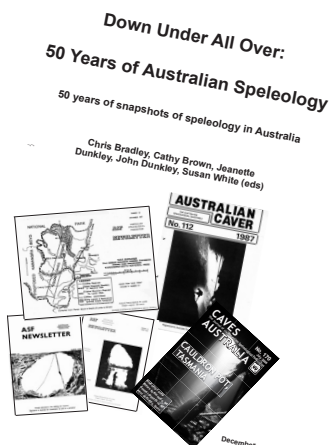
Fortunately we have had very little problem with this last issue. The main tasks revolve around collecting material and editing it to a suitable standard and getting appropriate graphics, again of suitable standard for printing, and then getting material ready for publication. This involves layout and proofreading. Finally then sending it out to members or organising distribution and/or sales. The main time consuming matters are to do with editing and proofreading, both of which take time, and rushing tends to result in mistakes.

Why is *Helictite* not part of the Publications Commission and has its own separate commission? Isn't this just duplication? This does look like duplication but when ASF received *Helictite* from the Speleological Research Council Inc, it was agreed that it would have a separate commission. People were concerned that it might just disappear and the money be 'frittered away'. In reality we struggle to keep the journal going, however we are managing to do so 'just'! Having the two commissions run in tandem rather than merged has minimised duplication.

This workshop finished with some discussion on how people can get involved and what tasks are needed to be done.



Examples of ASF publication



## Cave and Karst Conservation Forum

### Abstract

This forum is to provide an avenue to air problems and look towards solutions. The following questions are just some to prompt a contribution to the forum.

- What is the state of play in your patch?
- Are you in control?
- Are the caves being trashed and is it us or them?
- Does the Minimum Impact Caving Code need reviewing?
- Could the caves be better managed by your local management agencies?
- How should ASF support local karst conservation initiatives?

No findings or discussion were written up and submitted but the discussions were important for the Conservation Commission's work.